6th May 1954]

MR. SPEAKER :—" I wish to know whether the hon. Member's request is pressed or withdrawn."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" Is it an assurance, Sir, that the list when finalized will be placed on the table of the House? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, when I state a thing I state it quite sincerely and not for the purpose of evading an issue."

MR. SPEAKER :—" After the list is placed on the table of the House, if hon. Members still want a half-hour debate, we can have it at the proper time."

Provision of house-sites to the Harijans of Edambedu village, Tiruvallur taluk.

* 531 *Q.*—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Animal Husbandry be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is no provision in the Land Acquisition Act to acquire wet lands to provide house-sites to Harijans even if there is neither poramboke nor dry lands; and

(*b*) why the request of the Harijans of Edambedu village, Tiruvallur taluk, for the provision of house-sites has not been complied with and why it is pending for the last seven years?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) There is provision to acquire wet lands.

" (*b*) The request of the Harijans of Edambedu village, Tiruvallur taluk, is for the acquisition of very costly wet lands while suitable dry lands adjacent to their existing cheri are available. As the Harijans are not willing to occupy these dry lands, their request for the acquisition of wet lands has not been complied with by the Collector of Chingleput. The Harijans applied to the Rural Welfare Officer, Tiruvallur, for the provision of house-sites only last year."

* SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Land Acquisition Act becomes powerless and the Government are also very much afraid of acquiring lands, if such lands belong to rich and influential persons? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, I do not agree with the hon. Member."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" I understand from the Hon. Minister that if suitable land is available near their house-sites, they are acquired. May I know what the reasons adduced are for not acquiring wet lands if available elsewhere? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I do not know; it may depend upon the particular villages in which the Harijans live. Further, when suitable dry lands are available, I do not see any reason why they should prefer wet lands."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Will the Hon. Minister for Animal Husbandry be pleased to state . . ."

AN HON. MEMBER :—" He is not the Minister for Animal Husbandry. He is Minister in charge of Prohibition, etc."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" I am sorry; I thought it was his portfolio. Will the Hon. Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state whether there are any instances anywhere in the State where wet lands were acquired for the purpose of house-sites for Harijans? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir. There are certain instances."

Modification of the existing system of local administration.

* 532 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have under consideration any proposal for the modification of the existing system of local administration; and

(*b*) if so, the salient features of the new proposals?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir. The proposal under consideration is the decentralization of the functions of the district boards by constituting local boards for smaller units, namely, taluks.

" (*b*) The scheme is still under consideration."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, immediately after the ex-Minister for Local Administration assumed office, he proclaimed the policy of the Government and gave a skeleton of his views in the newspapers. Subsequently, for repeated questions, he gave us to understand that the appointment of the Committee to go into the question was almost imminent. May I know when the Government will face the problem squarely and take concrete steps to implement their scheme? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYACHI :—" The question of appointment of the Committee is under consideration. As soon as a Committee is appointed, Government will take steps to implement the suggestions made by hon. Members in the House."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" தாலூகா போர்டுகள் ஏற்படுத்துவதை பற்றி ஜில்லா போர்டுகள் தேர்தலுக்கு முன்பாக, அரசாங்கம் கவனம் செலுத்துவார்களா ? அல்லது ஜில்லா போர்டு தேர்தல் முடிந்த பிறகு கவனம் செலுத்துவார்களா ? "

THE HON SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYACHI :—" ஜில்லா போர்டு தேர்தல் முடிந்த பிறகு அதைப்பற்றி கவனம் செலுத்தப்படும்."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" Sir, it has been stated that the appointment of the Committee and amendments to the Local Boards Act are under consideration. May I know when Government are going to appoint the Committee at least? "